Electromagnetic locks on the doors to keep them locked while the clerk is occupied cleaning the store at night so robbers can't ambush him while he's out from behind the bulletproof glass. These locks have around a 1,500 pound hold strength so it's impossible to force them open manually.

But you can open them from inside easily without the clerk having to buzz you out because there's a circuit that detects when a person touches the exit bar that de-energizes the electromagnet. This is a simple touch sensitive circuit that detects a change in capacitance when a conductive body (like yours) drains it.

It won't work if you touch it with gloves since they'd insulate you from the circuit. But touch it with a bare metal object...

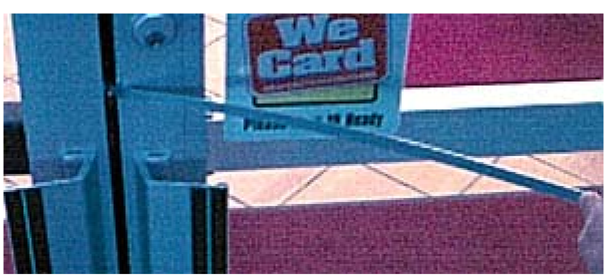
Take a flat piece of steel about 2 feet long and 3/8" wide and bend it with a curve on the end in a half-circle 4" in diameter.

Now, by simply slipping the curved part through the gap in the doors, I can touch the bar on the inside with this conductive metal and fool the lock into thinking I'm inside and unlocking. Takes all of 3 seconds to insert this jimmy and unlock the doors.

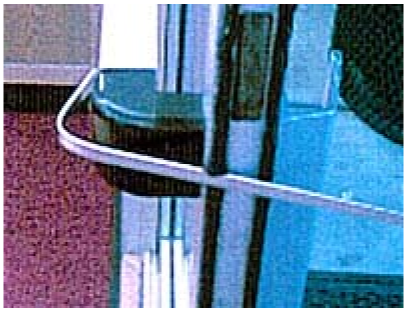
This shows what an electromagnetic lock looks like. Basically a flat steel plate attached to the door with the electromagnet attached to the frame. These have a pull force of several thousand pounds, thus impossible to manually pull open.



Here's the jimmy being inserted into the gap between doors.



Here we see how the jimmy curves around to touch the door handle, thus fooling the lock into releasing.



The end must touch the bare metal of the bar in order to conduct. You have to be holding the jimmy with a bare hand too, because it won't work if you're wearing gloves.

